

EXPRESSION OF GLIAL CELL LINE-DERIVED NEUROTROPHIC FACTOR IN CARDIAC MUSCLE OF ADULT RATS.

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Abstract

Glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) is a neurotrophic factor that helps support, control and differentiate neurons. Results of previous studies have shown that GDNF mRNA levels are high in heart during development but decline to low levels by 3 weeks of age. As GDNF is important for regulating development and normal function of parasympathetic nervous system we wanted to determine whether GDNF protein continues to be expressed in heart from young adult and aging adult rats. If GDNF expression in heart is found to decline with age this could help explain age-related changes in parasympathetic nervous system function.

Category

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